

Dear Jessica,

Thank you for writing me back. I read every sentence with much attention and interest and with thanksgiving to God. I can tell you are a mighty young woman of God and I am thankful for you and for your love for Him.

Your email helped me better understand where you are coming from. I believe that the issue is primarily about these special revelations, as they are called. One reason I wish you had more familiarity with the studies is that you would at least know that I hold nothing - no word, no dream, no message - anywhere near the authoritative Word of God. If most of your familiarity with my teaching concerns those kinds of things then it leads to a very lopsided view of the ministry. I could not agree more that the Bible is the only absolute Truth and only standard for measuring truth. There is nothing on this earth that we can hold in our human hands that I esteem more than the Word of God. Studying it - seeking Christ Jesus through it - has been my life work for 30 years. Nothing I ever feel like I am discerning or perceiving is ever equated in my heart or mind or teaching with the words on those pages. I also wholeheartedly agree that we can trust nothing we feel or think we are hearing if it in anyway contradicts with Scripture.

I put this question before you with earnestness and purity of intention. Jessica, have you ever been in the Scriptures and been in prayer when God impressed something so strongly on your heart that it was almost unbearable? Has there ever been a time when you knew you were supposed to contact someone, act on something, write something down, get up and do something specific or follow through with something? I think I can tell that you are already a communicator. Have there been times when you felt like God was leading you – not in audible words but in a strong move of His Holy Spirit on your heart with your Bible wide open – to share something He had impressed on you with your group? Your sincere answer might be no. But if it is yes, would you not have felt that it was very possible that the Holy Spirit had been speaking to you? Not audibly of course. Speaking to your heart.

I believe we may view the Scriptures differently on these things but the conversation is worth having. Belief in the possibility of prophetic words, for instance, is not unscriptural. In fact, 1 Thessalonians 5:20 tells us not to despise prophecies but to test everything and hold fast to what is good. Acts 2:17 records that as God pours out His Spirit, people may even have dreams

and visions. There are accounts of Jesus revealing Himself through dreams to numbers of people in closed countries. Do you believe that can happen? Again, I ask these questions sincerely. Several times in the Book of Acts the Spirit moved upon Paul to stop going one direction and start going another. Do you believe that He can do that today? Perhaps you do not. It may be that you hold that all such revelation ceased with the completion of the canon but is it possible that someone who might feel differently could also be coming to that conclusion from Scripture?

One way or the other, Jessica, I am honored to have the dialogue with you. As a young 27 year old so in love with Jesus and so in love with the Scriptures, I was taught a very specific doctrine of faith and interpretation of the Scriptures. I truly believed that anyone who did not believe exactly that same way was dead wrong. I came to discover over the years that godly people who also loved the Bible like I did interpreted some verses and doctrines differently. There are still many I don't agree with but, with some, I do at least see in Scripture where they are coming from. That may never be you with me, Jessica. You may always be convinced that I am a false teacher. But it will be you with someone along the way and you will both be so glad you met.

I love you young women so much. I believe in what God is stirring in your hearts. May God continue to wildly bless you and that man of yours who loves you so much. May Christ remain our all.

Beth